

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 3, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11-14, 28, 34, 37-39, and 41-46 have been amended. Claims 47-49 are added. Claims 1-49 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 27, and 40 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application as herein amended, and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed June 3, 2003, claim 1 is objected to because the Examiner has interpreted the claim as including -- by speech input -- after the phrase "not received" in step (e). However, step (e) can receive a second command either by speech recognition or a primary input, wherein the primary input is not necessarily a speech input. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is amended to recite -- by the one of the speech recognition and a primary input of the terminal -- after the phrase "not received" to clarify that the second command can be received by either the speech recognition or the primary input. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 1 now be withdrawn.

Claim 42 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because there is insufficient antecedent basis for "said wearable computer". Claim 42 is amended to provide antecedent basis as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 42 as indefinite now be withdrawn.

Claims 37-39 and 42-46 are amended to correct typographical errors found during review of the claims for purposes of responding to the Office Action.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 27-32, 40, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,012,030 (French-St-George) (hereafter referred to as 'French').

Claims 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over French.

Claims 18-26, 33-39, and 42-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over French in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,793 ('Jenkins').

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for activating speech recognition in a terminal. According to the invention, the terminal detects an event and performs a first command in response to the event. In addition, the terminal automatically activates speech recognition at the terminal in response to the detection of the event (see page 4, lines 7-10). The terminal keeps the speech recognition activated for a speech recognition time period which starts when the speech recognition is activated in response to the detected event. During the speech recognition time period, the terminal determines whether a second command is received (page 4, lines 10-12). The second command may be either a voiced command or a command input by the primary input of the terminal during this time period (page 4, lines 12-13). After the speech recognition time period has elapsed, the speech recognition in the terminal is deactivated. If the second command is not received during the speech recognition time period, it may be received thereafter only through the primary input (page 4, lines 13-15).

The event which triggers the activation of the speech recognition may include use of the primary input on the terminal by the user to input a command, a receipt at the terminal of

new information in the environment, or notification of an external event such as receipt of a phone call or a short message (see page 10, lines 14-17).

Independent claim 1 is drawn to a method for activating speech recognition and include the step of automatically activating speech recognition in response to an event detected at the terminal. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the speech recognition is deactivated if a second command has not been received and the speech recognition time period has elapsed and that the second command can only be input by the primary input after the speech recognition is deactivated. Dependent claims 7 and 11-14 are amended to be consistent with the changes to claim 1.

French discloses a device, system, and method for managing speech and audio prompts in response to a user's current interaction modality. According to French, a communications device has a multimodal user interface, i.e., more than one mode of input and output (see col. 1, lines 61-65 and col. 4, lines 25-29). Furthermore, the device is dynamically switchable from a foreground state to a background state of speech interface (see col. 3, lines 30-32). Speech interface, audio prompts, and speech-based error recovery are fully implemented in the foreground state (col. 3, lines 40-42). In the background state, speech prompts are replaced by a limited set of audio prompts (or earcons), and no speech-based error recovery is implemented (col. 3, lines 45-47). French also teaches that the device may dynamically select the alternative states of speech interfaces, i.e., the foreground state or the background state, based on a user's input modality (col. 4, lines 33-35). For example, if the user's input modality is speech input, the foreground state is selected and if the user's input modality is non-speech input the background state is selected (col. 4, lines 9-14).

French fails to disclose, teach or suggest the step of deactivating speech recognition if a speech recognition time period elapses. Rather, French discloses that a state of speech interface is selected based on an input modality of the user. There is no disclosure in French of a time period at all. Furthermore, French fails to disclose that there is any deactivation of the speech interface at all. In fact, French actually teaches away from using time periods (see col. 2, lines 55-66). In view of the above remarks, French fails to disclose the step of deactivating as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by French under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Furthermore, since French specifically teaches away from deactivating the speech input after a speech input period, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is also allowable over French under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Independent claims 27 and 40 are each directed to a terminal capable of speech recognition and a system for activating speech recognition in a terminal, respectively. Both of these claims recite that speech recognition is activated in response to an event at the terminal and that the speech recognition is deactivated after a speech recognition time period as elapsed.

As stated above, French fails to disclose teach or suggest deactivating the speech input recognition as expressly recited in independent claims 27 and 40. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 27 and 40 are not anticipated by French under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Furthermore, since French specifically teaches away from deactivating the speech input after a speech input period, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is also allowable over French under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Dependent claims 2-26, 28-39, and 41-46, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 27, and 40, are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1, 27, and 40.

In addition, dependent claims 19, 22-26, 35-39, and 42-49 each recite that the event is received from the environment of the terminal or is a notification of an external event. French fails to teach or suggest this. Rather French teaches that a change in a state of speech input interface is made in response to user input modality. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims 19, 22-26, 35-39, and 42-49 are allowable for these additional reasons.

Dependent claims 19-21, 34-35 and 42 each recite that the terminal is a wearable computer with a context aware application. As stated in the Office Action French fails to disclose a wearable computer. Jenkins relates to a device and method for recording messages at coordinate waypoints in a subscriber service. Although the subscriber device may be a wearable computer (see col. 5, lines 29-40), there is no teaching or suggestion for a context aware application. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Jenkins that speech input recognition is activated by receipt of a context related event at the terminal. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 19-21, 34-35 and 42 are each allowable for these additional reasons.

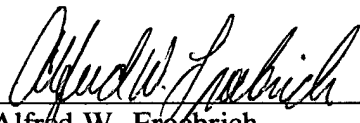
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

A check in the amount \$54.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 3 new claims in excess of twenty.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 
Alfred W. Froebrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

Dated: September 3, 2003